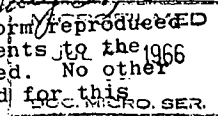


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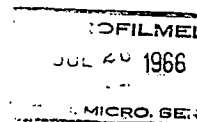
NO BASIC DOCUMENT

Document No. DFB-19850

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Federal Bureau of Investigation



Director
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D. C. 20505

Attention: Deputy Director, Plans

Dear Sir:

For your information, I am enclosing communications which may be of interest to you.

Very truly yours,

J. Edgar Hoover
John Edgar Hoover
Director

FBI

~~Enc~~

1 att H/W

(Upon removal of classified enclosures, if any, this transmittal form becomes UNCLASSIFIED.)

C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L

FORM 2227
4-64

FOR COORDINATION WITH FBI

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCES METHOD EXEMPTION 3B2B
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2006

DFB 19850

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

SECURITY INFORMATION - CONFIDENTIAL

FORM NO. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT WASHINGTON, D. C.

FILE NO.

REPORT MADE AT WASHINGTON, D. C.	DATE WHEN MADE JUL 9 1952	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 3/3; 4/18, 22; 6/13, 16/52	REPORT MADE BY CLYDE D. NICOLL CDN:how
TITLE VITOLDS PORMANIS, was.			CHARACTER OF CASE INTERNAL SECURITY - R & LA
SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: Subject interviewed and denied ever having been a Communist or member of any Communist organization, or having possessed a membership card indicating such membership. Records of T-1 reflect subject has been assigned to a military unit in the District of Columbia and has had no military activity here. There is no indication subject is engaged in any activities inimical to the interests of the United States. MICROFILMED JUL 26 1966 ROC. MICRO. SER.			
- C -			
DETAILS: AT WASHINGTON, D. C. Subject was interviewed on April 22, 1952, by the writer and Special Agent ROBERT E. LENIHAN. Subject advised that his parents fled from Riga, Latvia, in 1916 and resided in Rabinsk, Russia, to avoid German domination during World War I. Subject stated he was born in Rabinsk, Russia, in 1919. In 1920 when Latvia was free from German domination his parents returned with him to Riga, Latvia, where he continued to live until 1944. PORMANIS stated that his father, MARTIN P. PORMANIS, was employed as a Controller in the city government of Riga until his retirement in 1934. For several years his father was active as a Social Democrat, but in 1932 gave up all political activities. PORMANIS described his father as anti-Communist, but stated he was placed in the position of Commissioner			
APPROVED AND FORWARDED:	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES	
COPIES OF THIS REPORT 5 Bureau (105-10016) 1 Detroit (66-1968) (Info) RM 1 New York (100-87161) (Info) RM 3 Washington Field (105-682)		Negative recommendation for clearance or disapproval. CS	

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Att #1 to DFB-19850

SECURITY INFORMATION - CONFIDENTIAL

ENCLOSURE

by the Communists when they took over the city of Riga during World War II. Subject stated that the Russians selected certain persons of more or less known "liberal" tendencies for positions of authority immediately following the seizure of Riga, and these persons were later replaced by persons of Russian origin. Subject stated that his father was one of the individuals placed in the position of Commissioner primarily because of his previous activity as a member of the Social Democratic Party. Subject stated that his father had never at any time been particularly sympathetic toward the Russians and certainly was not sympathetic toward the Communists. He said that his father upon being relieved from his position in the Riga government retired and held no further government position under the Russian domination.

PORMANIS advised his mother was a practicing physician in Riga prior to the Russian occupation of that city, and that during the occupation she was forced to serve in the public clinic and discontinue her private practice. Subject stated that as far as he knows his mother is now allowed to carry on private practice in Riga; however he has not seen his parents since he left Riga in 1944 and has not corresponded with them since the Russians started requiring that all letters addressed to a foreign destination be presented personally for mailing by the writer at the post office.

PORMANIS informed that his sister, MELITA PORMANIS, had been unable to obtain a visa to the United States and is now married to a citizen of Western Germany. Subject stated he believes his sister is presently residing in Frankfurt, Germany. She has been married about two years, but subject knows nothing else concerning her husband.

PORMANIS stated he attended public schools in Riga and in 1939 he entered the University of Riga. He was a member of the "Lettonia Society", a social fraternity at the University of Riga. He engaged in sports, particularly track, and was an advocate of increased sports training on a national basis. Subject stated he took part in a national journalism contest and as a result of his efforts obtained a job with a newspaper in Riga. He was employed by this newspaper, "CINA" ("BATTLE") and continued in the employ of the paper for about nine months after the Russians took over its operation. According to the subject, all newspapers and radio stations in Latvia were taken over and controlled by the Russians while Latvia was under Russian occupation. As a result of this employment subject stated that he was expelled from the "Lettonia Society"

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by a secret ballot of the members without opportunity to defend himself against the charges placed against him. Subject explained that the University of Riga was modeled from the older German universities and that the university of Riga was very conservative in its policies and many of the fraternity students were pro-German in their sympathies. Subject attributed the charges of his being pro-Communist to this group.

PORMANIS said his employment with "CINA" was terminated in April, 1940, and he spent the following six to eight weeks traveling around Latvia with an occasional visit to his parents in Riga. Subject indicated during this time he was unemployed and had no established residence outside of his apartment in Riga. He stated that travel was not restricted within the country and anyone could travel freely about the country without being intercepted and questioned by the Russian authorities. PORMANIS stated the German forces took over Latvia in June, 1940, and he returned to Riga early within that month. He said he was almost immediately arrested by the German authorities and confined for six weeks in the Central Prison of Riga and he was questioned by the Germans for alleged Communist activities. He advised he was also questioned in connection with the disappearance of papers belonging to a Russian General. Subject explained that he and some friends out of curiosity made a tour of the building in Riga which had been occupied by the NKVD as a headquarters building and a prison. Papers belonging to a Russian General had been taken from the building at about the time the Russian forces had left the city and he, the subject, was among those suspected of being implicated in the removal of the papers. Subject stated he knew nothing of the papers or their contents and finally convinced the German authorities of this fact, at which time he was released. He claimed, however, that he was severely beaten during the imprisonment, and following his release was avoided by both the pro-Russian and pro-German factions in the city of Riga. Subject stated that his release by the Germans may have been influenced by the fact that his father sometime previously had aided a Baronesse RAULBARS, a German citizen, to escape from Russia to Germany after the Baronesse had become stranded behind Russian territorial lines.

Subject stated he reentered the University of Riga in 1940 and continued his studies until May, 1944, when he was graduated. He said his support during most of this period was provided by his parents. In July, 1944, subject was married to GAILA KMEVICS, a citizen of Riga. Shortly following their marriage the two were consigned to a forced labor camp at Bruck-on-Mur, Austria, for a period of nine months. Following their release

PORMANIS

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from the labor camp subject and his wife were residents of a Latvian displaced persons camp at Esslingen, Germany, until their departure for the United States in February, 1947.

Subject stated he and his wife, GAIDA, arrived in the United States at New York City in February, 1947, and within one or two days proceeded to Detroit, Michigan, where they resided for a period with his wife's aunt and her husband, Mr. and Mrs. CHRISTIAN JACOBSON. Subject said he obtained employment as a Parts-Stock Clerk with General Motors Incorporated, and remained in that employ until June, 1951, at which time he came to Washington, D. C. Subject advised he had no particular reason for selecting Washington, D. C., as a place of residence, except that he desired to seek a new means of livelihood and also desired a change in climate. He said he knew no one in the city and had only the prospect of employment with the King Merritt Company as a mutual fund security salesman. Subject stated he had told some persons in Detroit that he was taking a position with the State Department but this was only a subterfuge as he had never intended seeking Government employment. Subject stated he and his wife had separated prior to his coming to Washington and that she is presently residing in New York City. He stated that divorce proceedings had already begun in Detroit before he left that city.

POPMANIS advised that his time in Washington, D. C., has been taken up with applying himself to learning his new work and seeking new clients for mutual fund securities. Subject stated he had used a Latvian language newspaper published in New York City as a medium of advertising and has received considerable number of inquiries by mail from Latvian and Lithuanian persons for literature explaining mutual fund investments. Subject stated his residence in Washington, D. C., from June until the end of 1951 was 4607 Connecticut Avenue, N. W. He is presently residing at 3801 Connecticut Avenue, N. W., Apartment 808.

POPMANIS advised that in December, 1951, the divorce proceedings were completed in Detroit, Michigan, and he was married in Washington, D. C., on February 2, 1952, to JANINA TERESA SCHASTNIP, a Latvian displaced person from Detroit, Michigan.

Subject stated that in September, 1950, he entered Wayne University in Detroit, Michigan, and in December, 1950, joined the Military Intelligence Reserve for three years. His military serial number is ER 16349509. Subject

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stated he attended military training programs in Detroit, but has not attended any meetings or been assigned to any military unit in the District of Columbia. Subject advised he had been placed in a Russian language unit in the Military Intelligence Reserve in Detroit because of his knowledge of the Russian language.

Subject stated that he applied for and filed his first citizenship papers in 1947 and intends to file for the Petition for Naturalization as an American citizen in the immediate future. Subject stated that neither his first nor his present wife are American citizens. He said he desired to become an American citizen and has no intention of returning to Latvia or to Europe.

When questioned concerning ~~ARNOLD BAGATAIS~~ of New York City, subject stated that he has only a slight acquaintance with that individual and has seen him only a very few times. Subject stated BAGATAIS is supposed to be a good friend of Mrs. ALEXANDRO BREIVO of Detroit, Michigan, who is a sister of GAIDA POMANIS, subject's first wife. Subject stated he knows nothing of any Communist activities or sympathies on the part of BAGATAIS, except that he (BAGATAIS) had mentioned on one occasion that he became involved with some Communist group several years ago through membership in a maritime union in New York City while employed as a Merchant Seaman. Subject said that he has no reason to believe that BAGATAIS is pro-Communist and has no other knowledge concerning his activities or sympathies.

Subject, when questioned directly concerning his own activities and sympathies toward Communism, stated that he had never been a member of the Communist Party or a member of the Communist Party youth movement. He stated that he had never been the holder of a card of any kind which related to any Communist organization. POMANIS said the only card he could recall having held in Europe was the press card he held while employed with the newspaper, "CINA", in 1940 in Riga, Latvia. Subject stated he could not recall having displayed this card or any other card on any occasion for the purpose of establishing himself as a Communist or a representative of the Communist government. Subject said this card was surrendered by him when his employment with the newspaper was terminated. Subject further denied having written any articles in a newspaper praising the Soviet Union or denouncing his native country.

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MISCELLANEOUS

The records of Confidential Informant T-1, another Government agency engaged in intelligence activities, reflect that subject's Military Reserve file is being maintained in an unassigned status and that the subject has received no military training in a District of Columbia unit.

The records of the Marriage License Bureau, District of Columbia, reflect that License #362611 was issued on December 21, 1951 to VITOLES PORMANIS and JANINA TERESIA SCHASTNIP, the latter age 28, a resident of Riga, Latvia. The marriage ceremony was performed on February 2, 1952, by the Reverend WILLIAM F. BRUENING, Christ Lutheran Church, Washington, D. C.

Inasmuch as there is no indication subject is presently engaged in any activities inimical to the interests of the United States, no further investigation is contemplated in this matter and this case is being placed in a closed status unless instructions to the contrary are received from the Bureau.

- C L O S E D -